



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 982**

January Session, 2009

Substitute House Bill No. 6687

*House of Representatives, May 19, 2009*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. RITTER of the 38th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-66gg of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [Within available appropriations] On or before January 1, 2011, and  
4 biennially thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall [annually,]  
5 review and report, within available appropriations and in accordance  
6 with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the operation of such charter  
7 schools as may be established pursuant to sections 10-66aa to 10-66ff,  
8 inclusive, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
9 having cognizance of matters relating to education. Such report shall  
10 include: (1) Recommendations for any statutory changes that would  
11 facilitate expansion in the number of charter schools; (2) a compilation  
12 of school profiles pursuant to section 10-66cc; (3) an assessment of the  
13 adequacy of funding pursuant to section 10-66ee; [ ] and (4) the  
14 adequacy and availability of suitable facilities for such schools.

15 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-266w of the general statutes is  
16 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
17 *1, 2009*):

18 (d) Each local and regional board of education participating in the  
19 grant program shall prepare a financial statement of expenditures  
20 which shall be submitted to the department [on or before September  
21 first of the fiscal year immediately following each fiscal year in which  
22 the school district participates in the grant program] annually at such  
23 time and in such manner as the commissioner prescribes. If the  
24 commissioner finds that any school breakfast grant recipient uses such  
25 grant for purposes which are not in conformity with the purposes of  
26 this section, the commissioner [may] shall require repayment of the  
27 grant to the state.

28 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) Whenever the term "regional  
29 vocational-technical school" or "regional vocational-technical schools"  
30 is used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes,  
31 the term "technical high school" or "technical high schools" shall be  
32 substituted in lieu thereof: 4-124ff, 4-124gg, 4a-11a, 4d-83, 5-275, 8-  
33 265pp, 10-4h, 10-9, 10-19d, 10-20a, 10-21g, 10-66p, 10-67, 10-74d, 10-76q,  
34 10-95, 10-95a, 10-95h, 10-95i, 10-95j, 10-95k, 10-95m, 10-95n, 10-97, 10-  
35 98a, 10-214a, 10-215b, 10-215f, 10-220d, 10-233d, 10-235, 10-262r, 10-  
36 264l, 10-266m, 10-283, 10-283b, 10-287d, 10a-12a, 10a-19b, 10a-72d, 17b-  
37 610, 31-3c, 31-3h, 31-3k, 31-3l, 31-11p, 31-11s, 32-6j and 32-475.

38 (b) Whenever the term "vocational-technical school" or "vocational-  
39 technical schools" is used or referred to in the following sections of the  
40 general statutes, the term "technical high school" or "technical high  
41 schools" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 1-79, 1-84d, 1-91, 4-124z, 4-  
42 124hh, 10-15d, 10-19e, 10-21g, 10-69, 10-95, 10-95a, 10-95i, 10-95l, 10-  
43 95m, 10-235, 10-262n, 10-262r, 10a-12a, 10a-25b, 17b-688i, 31-3ee and  
44 31-51ww.

45 (c) Whenever the term "vocational school" or "vocational schools" is  
46 used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, the  
47 term "technical high school" or "technical high schools" shall be

48 substituted in lieu thereof: 4-29, 10-13, 10-55, 10-64, 10-97, 10-186, 10a-  
49 123, 10a-166, 14-36, 20-90, 31-23, 31-24, 38a-682 and 48-9.

50 Sec. 4. Section 10-220h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
51 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

52 When a student enrolls in a school in a new school district or in a  
53 new state charter school, the new school district or new state charter  
54 school shall provide written notification of such enrollment to the  
55 school district in which the student previously attended school or the  
56 state charter school the student previously attended not later than two  
57 business days after the student registers. The school district in which  
58 the student previously attended school or the state charter school that  
59 the student previously attended (1) shall transfer the student's  
60 education records to the new school district or new state charter school  
61 no later than ten days after receipt of such notification, and (2) if the  
62 student's parent or guardian did not give written authorization for the  
63 transfer of such records, shall send notification of the transfer to the  
64 parent or guardian at the same time that it transfers the records. In the  
65 case of a student who transfers from Unified School District #1 or  
66 Unified School District #2, the new school district or new state charter  
67 school shall provide written notification of such enrollment to Unified  
68 School District #1 or Unified School District #2 not later than ten days  
69 after the date of enrollment, the unified school district shall, not later  
70 than ten days after receipt of notification of enrollment from the new  
71 school district or new state charter school, transfer [the] all records of  
72 the student to the new school district or new state charter school and  
73 the new school district or new state charter school shall, not later than  
74 thirty days after receiving the student's education records, credit the  
75 student for all instruction received in Unified School District #1 or  
76 Unified School District #2.

77 Sec. 5. Section 10-212 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
78 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

79 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall appoint one or  
80 more school nurses or nurse practitioners. Such school nurses and

81 nurse practitioners appointed by such boards shall be qualified  
82 pursuant to regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of  
83 chapter 54 by the State Board of Education in consultation with the  
84 Department of Public Health. Such school nurses may also act as  
85 visiting nurses in the town, may visit the homes of pupils in the public  
86 schools and shall assist in executing the orders of the school medical  
87 advisor, if there is any in such town, and perform such other duties as  
88 are required by such board.

89 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any  
90 regulation of Connecticut state agencies, nothing in this section shall  
91 be construed to prohibit the administering of medications by parents  
92 or guardians to their own children on school grounds.

93 (c) School nurses and nurse practitioners appointed by or under  
94 contract with any local or regional board of education and any nurse  
95 provided to a nonpublic school under the provisions of section 10-217a  
96 shall submit to a criminal history records check in accordance with the  
97 provisions of section 29-17a.

98 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations, in  
99 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to increase the  
100 qualifications of school nurses by requiring each school nurse to (1) be  
101 certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, (2) have at least two years  
102 of full-time working experience as a registered nurse during the five-  
103 year period immediately prior to the date of employment as a school  
104 nurse, and (3) maintain a valid nursing license in the state of  
105 Connecticut. The regulations shall include a provision exempting  
106 school nurses employed by schools at anytime prior to July 1, 2009,  
107 from satisfying the requirements prescribed in subdivisions (1) and (2)  
108 of this subsection.

109 (e) Notwithstanding the regulations adopted pursuant to this  
110 section, if a public school is staffed by a full-time school nurse or nurse  
111 practitioner who meets the requirements specified in such regulations,  
112 a local or regional board of education may appoint or employ an  
113 additional school nurse at such school who has less work experience

114 than the requirement described in subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of  
115 this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-66gg
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-266w(d)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	10-220h
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-212

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

---

### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

#### ***State Impact:***

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Savings	None	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** None

#### ***Explanation***

**Section 1** results in a minimal savings, in FY 11, as the State Department of Education (SDE) has to produce the report on the operation of charter schools biennially, rather than annually.

**Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5** make various other changes that are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

#### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

---

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6687*****AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE  
EDUCATION STATUTES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes a number of changes to the education statutes. It:

1. requires the report on the operation of charter schools that the education commissioner must annually submit to the Education Committee, to instead be submitted biennially, beginning January 1, 2011;
2. requires boards of education participating in the school breakfast program to submit a financial statement on the program annually in the time and manner the commissioner requires, rather than by September 1 of the next year and requires, rather than allows, the commissioner to require repayment of funds to the state that were inappropriately spent;
3. replaces the term “regional vocational-technical school” with “technical high school” throughout the statutes;
4. applies the records transfer rules applicable to Unified School District #1 (Department of Corrections) to Unified School District #2 (Department of Children and Families) and, in the case of other districts and state charter schools, requires that notice of student transfer to a new school be sent to the previous school district within two business days of the student’s registration; and
5. requires the State Board of Education to adopt regulations to enhance school nurse qualifications.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009, except for the provisions on the charter school report and records transfer, which are effective on passage.

## **RECORDS TRANSFER**

By law, when a student enrolls in a school in a new school district or state charter school, the new district or school must provide written notification of enrollment to the student's previous school district or the state charter school. The bill specifies that this must be done within two business days after the student's registration. By law, the records must be transferred to the new school within 10 days of receiving the notification.

By law, if a student transfers from Unified School District #1, the new school district or charter school must provide notice of enrollment to the unified district within 10 days of such enrollment. The unified district has 10 days to transfer the records after it receives the notification. The new district or charter school has 30 days to credit the student for all instruction received in the unified school district. The bill applies these provisions to Unified School District #2.

## **SCHOOL NURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The regulations must require each school nurse to:

1. be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
2. have at least two years of full-time working experience as a registered nurse during the five-year period immediately before the date of employment as a school nurse; and
3. maintain a valid Connecticut nursing license.

The bill requires the regulations to exempt nurses employed by schools before July 1, 2009 from everything but the license requirement. Additionally, if a public school is staffed by a full-time nurse or nurse practitioner who meets all of the requirements, the bill allows boards of education to appoint or employ an additional nurse at



the school who does not meet the experience requirement.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Current School Nurse Regulations***

In order to qualify as a school nurse each nurse or nurse practitioner must:

1. be a registered professional nurse, designated as R.N. and currently licensed in the state of Connecticut;
2. have at least the equivalent of one year full-time working experience as a registered nurse within five years immediately prior to employment as a school nurse; and
3. have academic preparation to include 12 credits at a licensed or accredited institution of higher learning, 18 continuing education units, or 180 workshop or in-service hours meeting certain distribution requirements (Conn. Agency Regs. § 10-212-2).

### ***Legislative History***

On May 5, 2009, the House referred the bill to the Public Health Committee which, on May 12, reported a substitute of the bill that eliminated new education, continuing education, and certification requirements for school nurses and added the provision exempting additional school nurses from meeting the experience requirement.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

### **Education Committee**

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28      Nay 2      (04/01/2009)

### **Public Health Committee**

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23      Nay 7      (05/12/2009)